

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An anterior cervical plate has a lower surface adapted to engage the cervical spine and a top surface. At at least one location along the plate there are two transversely aligned bone screw holes. A locking element is pivotally mounted between these two bone screw holes for movement between an open position which uncovers the two bone screw holes and a locking position wherein the locking element at least partially covers each of the two bone screw holes. A positive positioning structure positively positions the locking element in the locking position.